

Holding the Silence 2024

Daily Readings from Sunday 31st March - Saturday 13th April 2024

Collect for Sunday 31st March - Saturday 6th April

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way of life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 7th - Saturday 13th April

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 31st March

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1. 3-5*

God does not want us to be burdened because of sorrows and tempests that happen in our lives, because it has always been so before miracles happen. *Julian of Norwich*

Monday 1st April

Christ has been raised from the dead: the first fruits of those who sleep. For as by man came death, by man has come also the resurrection of the dead; for as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
1 Corinthians 15.20-22

If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough. *Ellen Johnson Surleaf*

Tuesday 2nd April

In your unfailing love, O Lord, you led the people whom you had redeemed. And by your invincible strength you will guide them to your

holy dwelling. You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord in the sanctuary which your hands have established. *Exodus 15. 13,17*

Faith does not need to push the river because faith is able to trust that there is a river. The river is flowing. We are in it. *Richard Rohr*

Wednesday 3rd April

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. *Colossians 3.1-4*

The eye that sees nobility and beauty in what another would regard as ordinary is the eye of prayer. *Sister Wendy Beckett*

Thursday 4th April

As the two disciples came near to the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly saying, 'Stay with us because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over. So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them he took bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' *Luke 24. 28-32*

God is everywhere, never leaves us, yet God seems sometimes present, sometimes absent. If we do not know God well, we do not realise that God may be more present when God is absent than when God is present.
Thomas Merton

Friday 5th April

Job said, 'Oh that my words were written down! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side and my eyes shall behold, and not another. *Job 19.23-27a*

The glory of God is a human being fully alive.
St Iranaeus

Saturday 6th April

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: so let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5,7b,8

The words he spoke, the deeds he performed, the demands he raised, confronted people with a final decision. Jesus left no one neutral.

He himself had become the great question.

Hans Kung

Sunday 7th April

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds and raises up. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.

Psalms 118.14-17

Conversion isn't after all a moment: it's a process and it keeps happening, with cycles of acceptance and resistance, epiphany and doubt. *Sarah Miles*

Monday 8th April

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: do not fear, O Zion, do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord your God is in the midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.

Zephaniah 3.16-18

As soon as a man does not take his existence for granted, but beholds it as something unfathomably mysterious, thought begins.

Albert Schweitzer

Tuesday 9th April

Jesus said, 'This is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. *John 6.9*

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world. *Mary Oliver*

Wednesday 10th April

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: death has no more dominion over him. In dying he died to sin once for all: in living he lives to God. See yourselves therefore as dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. *Ann Frank*

Thursday 11th April

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. *Colossians 3.1-4*

The purpose of all major religious traditions is not to construct big temples on the outside, but to create temples of compassion inside, in our hearts. *Dalai Lama*

Friday 12th April

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you also must forgive. Above all clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. *Colossians 3.12-14*

The great lesson is that the sacred is in the ordinary, that it is to be found in one's daily life, in one's neighbours, friends and family, in one's backyard. *Abraham Maslow*

Saturday 13th April

O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you; my soul is athirst for you. My flesh also faints for you, as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. Your loving-kindness is better than life itself and so my lips shall praise you.

Psalms 63.1-4

Truth sees God: wisdom gazes on God, and these produce a third, a holy, wondering delight in God. *Julian of Norwich*

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